RICHARDSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OCTOBER 14, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Richardson County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Caverzagie at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 14, 2026. Roll call was answered by Karas, Campbell and Caverzagie. The Invocation was given by Chairman Caverzagie and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Karas. Chairman Caverzagie announced that the open meeting laws have been posted at the entrance to the meeting room.

A motion was made by Karas to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2026, meeting as presented. Motion seconded by Caverzagie. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-abstain, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Caverzagie to approve the agenda as posted. Motion seconded by Campbell. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried. The agenda is posted at the Richardson County Courthouse in the First Floor Lobby, the Lower-Level Lobby and on the Commissioner's Meeting Room door on the 2nd Floor and on the Richardson County website www.richardsoncountyne.gov.

ROAD & BRIDGE DEPT.

Highway Superintendent, Steve Darveau, Jr. updated the Board on the routine maintenance being done on county roads and bridges this week. Cleaning ditches and drainage tubes is being done along with grading roads and rock hauling.

Randall Dyck and Scott Freeman of Van Dorn Valley Construction, Inc. met with the Board to review the Dawson NW project completion and the final payment. Richardson County has determined that $11,843.33 has been incurred in liquidated damages ($300/day assessed for each calendar day that the work remained incomplete and overdue on the project). The start date was May 27, 2026, and the contract specified that the end/complete date would be June 19, 2026. The project was actually completed on September 12, 2026. The representatives presented a report on the facts that hindered their ability to complete the project on time which included an excessive amount of rain during the construction of the project and that a sub-contractor for the concrete work that was assigned to the job had left the project and it was a struggle to find another contractor to do the concrete work.

Motion was made by Karas that the Richardson County Board of Commissioners not allow the total payment on the contracted price for the Dawson Northwest C-74(2023-05) of $40,720.78 in which a reduction on the contract amount of $11,843.33 will be made due to late completion of the project by 85 days. Motion seconded by Campbell. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

The bids received for the rock hauling at the September 30, 2026, meeting were reviewed. Motion was made by Campbell to award the bid received for rock hauling of 7,500 ton to Fuxa Enterprises LLC at a price of $9.93/ton from the Whetrock Quarry in Murray, NE to Dawson whenever rock is available at the quarry. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER

Sheriff Hardesty was unable to meet with the Board this week due to scheduling conflicts.

A request was made by the Sheriff to allow the increase of salaries for the employees at the Law Enforcement Center effective on July 1, 2026, which will reflect the following salaries: Dispatch Supervisors at $25.75/hour and Dispatchers in a range from $21.00/hour to $22.66/hour; Administrative Assistant at $25.75/hour; Jail Administrator at $24.72/hour; Jail Supervisors at $22.66/hour; Jailers in a range from $20.60/hour to $21.63/hour; Deputy Sheriffs in a range from $29.25/hour to $34.22/hour. Motion was made by Karas to approve the increases as presented. Motion seconded by Campbell. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

SOUTHEAST NE COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP, INC.

Gin Christiansen, Weatherization Director of the SE NE Community Action Partnership, Inc. presented to the Board a Proclamation for Weatherization Day on Friday, October 30, 2026, in Richardson County. She reported that the weatherization program is celebrating a 50 year anniversary.

Motion was made by Karas to approve the Proclamation for Weatherization Day on Friday, October 30, 2026. Motion seconded by Caverzagie. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

PROJECT RESPONSE

Jillian Garcia, Coordinator of Project Response presented to the Board a review of the organization's activities. The organization has recently moved into a new location formerly known as the Apace building in Auburn. Project Response has assisted residents in need within Richardson County and publicly thanked Sheriff Hardesty and the Richardson County Sheriff's Office for their assistance when needed.

CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER

Veterans Service Aid Account

Veterans Service Officer, Odis Fields submitted the annual reports of the County Veterans Aid Account and the Nebraska Veterans Aid along with an activity report of the transportation activity that has been done in getting county veterans to their medical appointments at the VA hospitals and providers.

Planning Commission

Motion was made by Karas that the Richardson County Board would direct the Richardson County Planning Commission to rewrite and update the entire County Plan which would include poultry farming/feeding, electrical energy production and data centers which would bring the County's Comprehensive Plan into compliance with NE State Statute. Motion seconded by Campbell. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

CLAIMS

Motion was made by Campbell to approve the payment of all claims that were submitted today. Motion seconded by Karas. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried.

(The claims listed below are available for public inspection at the office of the County Clerk during regular business hours.)

GENERAL FUND

BuckIT, serv	7285.21
Fankhauser, Nelsen, Werts, Ziskey & Merwin, serv CR25-93 S. Mackey, CR26-70 S. Mackey	553.00
Holiday Inn, lodg	389.85
Quill, supp	180.25
Richardson County Vendor, FICA/retire/etc	25804.09
Riggs, Kim, reimb	238.64
SCC, rent	50.00
Springhill Suites, lodg	464.00
W7 Design Company, supp	115.00
Payroll Expense	132870.18
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	**$167,950.22**

ROAD & BRIDGE FUND

Falls City Sanitation, serv	66.00
Harmon's, supp	5.00
Operation & Expense Acct., reimb	105.39
Falls City Auto Supply, supp	520.17
Farm & City Supply, supp	430.82
Martin-Marietta Materials, rock	9261.90
NMC, supp	83.70
O'Reilly Automotive, supp	327.27
Verdon, Village of, serv	30.88
Woods & Aitken, serv	958.78
Payroll Expense	35052.78
TOTAL ROAD & BRIDGE FUND	**$46,842.69**

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Karas to adjourn the meeting at 11:28 a.m. Motion seconded by Campbell. ROLL CALL VOTE: Karas-aye, Campbell-aye, Caverzagie-aye. Motion carried. The Board will meet again on Wednesday, October 21, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. for the next regular weekly meeting in the Commissioner's Meeting Room, Courthouse, Falls City. The agenda is kept current at the County Clerk's Office.

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John Caverzagie, Chairman Mary L. Eickhoff, County Clerk